



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GREENVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORN CHARGES

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Alan M. Gardinsky, age 31, of Greenville, has entered a guilty plea in federal court in Greenville, to possession of child pornography, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A. United States District Judge Timothy M. Cain of Greenville accepted the plea and will impose sentence after he has reviewed the presentence report which will be prepared by the U.S. Probation Office.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that in March 2011, agents were conducting an on-line Internet investigation to identify individuals possessing and sharing child pornography. Agents located a computer sharing approximately one hundred and forty six (146) files, and of those files, several had file names that indicated they may contain child pornography. The files were

downloaded and confirmed to be child pornography.

Further investigation revealed that the IP address of the subject computer was associated with Alan Gardinsky. A search warrant was obtained on April 13, 2011. On April 20, 2011, agents executed the warrant at Gardinsky's residence. Gardinsky's computer was seized and a forensic examination was conducted. Agents discovered multiple videos and images of children under the age of 18 engaged in sexual acts or the lascivious display of the genitals.

Mr. Nettles stated the maximum penalty Gardinsky can receive is a fine of \$250,000 and/or imprisonment for 10 years, plus a special assessment of \$100.

The case was investigated by agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Investigations. Assistant United States Attorney Bill Watkins of the Greenville office handled the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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